

Patent ClaimsWHAT IS CLAIMED, IS

5 1. Method for changing the output delay of audio or video data encoding, wherein input time stamps are generated which become linked with audio or video data to be encoded and are used to control the delay of the encoding process, wherein output time stamps are derived from the input time stamps by using a data delay constant and are assigned to the encoded data for indicating the output time, and wherein the encoded data with assigned output time stamps are buffered before output, **characterised** in that for a change of the output delay said data delay constant is changed, that already assigned output time stamps remain unchanged and that for data for which output time stamps are not already assigned, the output time stamps are calculated using the new data delay constant.

10 15 2. Method according to claim 1, wherein during a gap in the sequence of output time stamps appearing at delay increase, stuffing data or zero data or even no data are sent.

15 20 25 3. Method according to claim 1, wherein for data with same or overlapping output time stamps appearing at delay reduction, the later data indicating output time stamps that are already passed are discarded.

20 25 30 35 4. Method according to any of claims 1, wherein for delay reduction no further data are written into the output delay buffer beginning with the delay change request for a time duration corresponding to the difference between the old data delay constant and the new data delay constant, and wherein the new data delay constant is used for the calculation of the output time stamps for all following data.

5. Method according to claim 1, wherein discontinuities of the audio or video data are softened by the encoder.
6. Method according to claim 1, wherein the discontinuities are softened by fading in before the gap or skipped part and fading out after the gap or skipped part.
7. Apparatus for performing a method according to claim 1.